1915!
2

A Full and True

ACCOUNT

Both of the

LIFE:

And also the

Manner and Method of carrying on the *Delusions*, *Blasphemies*, and *Notorious Cheats* of

Susan Fowls,

As the same was *Contrived*, *Plotted*, *Invented*, and *Managed* by wicked *Popish Priests* and other *Papists*, with a *Design* to *scandalize* our *Church* and *Ministers*, by insinuating that the *Virtue of Casting forth Devils*, and *Easing Persons Possess'd* was only in the *Power* of their *Church*.

As also,

Of her TRYAL and *Sentence* at the *Old-Baily*, the 7*th* of this instant *May*, for *Blaspheming* JESUS CHRIST, and *Cursing* the LORD's PRAYER.

LONDON, Printed for *J. Read* in *Fleet-street*, 1608.

A full and True Account of the First Beginning, and the manner and method of Carrying on the Delusions, Blasphemies, and notorious Cheats of *Susannah Fowles*, &c.

THo' by a wonderful Providence, God in his infinite Kindness to this our Nation has freed us from the Yoke and Tyranny of Popery, yet such are the restless endeavours of the busy Agents and Incendiaries of Rome, *that they still privately lurk about like Wolves in Sheeps Cloathing, seeking whom they may devour, of these it was of whom the Apostle says,* they creep into Houses, and lead captive silly women laden with Sins, *&c. The designs of the Jesuits are to bring a Scandal upon our Church and Churchmen, that so by disgracing and lessening them they may the more commodiously extol and magnifie themselves, as evidently appears by their wicked tampering with one* Susannah Fowls

a

a poor ignorant Woman, Wife to an honest Labourer in Hammersmith, *whom they perswaded, for filthy Gain, to counterfeit her self Possest, that so it might happen in her the Endeavours of our Protestant Divines failed, they of the Popish Communion, might seem to have the virtue, power, and efficacy to Cast out Devils: But to be methodical.*

One *Jordan* a Papist, seems to be the principal Promoter of this Blasphemous Delusion, which, for some time past, has made a great Rumour both in Town and Country. The pretences of this *Forle's* Accomplices were, That upon some Discontent she had wished several unlawful Wishes, such as, *That the Devil might fetch her.* Cursed her self, *if she would live such a Life*, &c. And she upon being visited said, She saw an Apparition in the shape of a Man, and afterwards seem'd to be Possess'd with a Devil, and had seemingly dreadful Fits, indeed very artificially counterfeited; and made a great noise at Prayers, sometimes she said the Devil appear'd in one shape, and then in another, and at the end of her Fits would commonly make two or three dismal Shrieks

and ſay, *Now he is gone.*

Nay, to ſuch a hight was her Blaſphemy grown, that on the 11. of *January* laſt, upon one of the Viſiters repeating the Words *Lord ſave us*, ſhe ſaid, *I'll ſave you*; and frequently upon reading the Lords Prayer, to her, ſhe ſaid, *Curſe it, Damn it, Sink it*; and upon repeating the Words, *I believe in God the Father Allmighty*, ſhe ſaid, that's me; and at repeating the Words, *And in Jeſus Chriſt his only* Son, ſhe ſaid *that's my Son.* At another time when the Words *Lord ſave us*, were again repeated to her, ſhe ſaid, *I'll ſave you, I came to ſave you all, for which I ſhed my Blood.* And always at the Naming of *Jeſus* ſhe would ſay, *Curſe him, Curſe him.*

Yet for all this our Proteſtant Divines were too knowing to be impos'd on by ſuch feigned deluſions, they firſt obſerv'd ſhe never chang'd her Countenance during the time of her Fits, which together with divers Methods which were us'd to make her believe they were at Prayers, when they were not, increaſed the Belief ſhe was a Cheat.

She ſaid, that ſhe had a Needle and a Paper in writing given her by the Devil; and

and that ſhe had a Spell given her to put about her Neck by one *Jordan* a Papiſt, ſome of which Profeſſion ſhe ſaid had ſent to her ſeveral times, and told her ſhe would never be cured till the Men with hair Coats and bare Legs came from the *Portugal* Embaſſador's: Which ſome of the Miniſters, who were Viſiters and Evidence againſt the Priſoner, declared, encreaſed their belief that it was a trick of the Papiſts to obtain the Credit of having done that which Proteſtants could not, *viz.* to caſt out the Devil. It was alſo obſerv'd that at repeating the Lords Prayer in Latin, ſhe did not fall into her Fits as uſual when 'twas ſaid in Engliſh, which was a further Confirmation of the Cheat,

To prove which more fully, one of her Viſiters heated an Iron; and when the Miniſter was at Prayer, and ſhe in her Fits as uſual, even when ſhe pretended to be inſenſible, he put it to her Hand, which ſhe drew away from it as ſoon as it touch'd her; and filling a Pipe of Tobacco, he blew the Smoke of it into her Face, which was like to have ſtifled her: And afterwards diſguiſing himſelf in an

ugly

ugly dreſs, entered the Room where ſhe was alone; upon which ſhe immediately run out, ſaying it was the Devil, and was much frightned; which was a further demonſtration ſhe was a Cheat. After which the Evidence threatning to knock her on the head if ſhe would not confeſs the Cheat, ſhe did it freely, and ſaid 'twas purely to get money, which ſhe alſo own'd to ſome others of the Evidence,

After all this, being had before a Juſtice, her Mittimus was made, and ſhe ſent to *Newgate*: and on *Saturday* the *7th* of *May* 1698. ſhe was Indicted at the Seſſions Houſe in the *Old-Baily*, for uttering Blaſphemous Words againſt *Jeſus Chriſt*, and Curſing and Damning the Lords Prayer.

The priſoner in her Defence ſaid, that great Troubles had occaſioned her to fall into a diſtracted condition, and that ſhe knew not what ſhe did; that ſhe did verily believe ſhe was either troubled with a De-

vil,

vil, or bewitch'd; that *Jordan* the papiſt had given her things both inwardly and outwardly; and that what ſhe had confeſt, was only to avoid being carried to priſon. But all this being look'd upon as frivolous and evaſion, and the Evidence being very full and clear, the Jury brought her in Guilty.

She was ſentenc'd by the Court to pay a Fine of 100 *Marks, and to lie in Priſon till it be paid; to ſtand three times on the Pillory,* viz. *at the* Maypole *in the* Strand, *at* Charingcroſs, *and at* Hammerſmith; *and ſo to find Surety for her good Behaviour fro a Twelve-month.*

As

As to what remains further to be ſpoken, tho' the fore-mention'd Account will make the greateſt part in Hiſtory, Her parents were good ſober, and honeſt Livers, but too negligent of ſeaſoning her tender years with the ſound principles of our excellent Faith, which gave her Enemies too eaſy a Victory over her, and I have reaſon to believe, her Marriage-ſtate was too unadvizedly ruſh'd in to, without a due conſideration how it would entangle her in the World, which was the occaſion of her making ſome horrid Wiſhes and Imprecations. To conclude, I heartily advize, all parents to give their Children Chriſtian Education, and all perſons of what ſtation ſoever, not to mock or prophane the Almighty, for His Vengeance will certainly, ſooner or later ſeverely over-take them.

FINIS.